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APR 23 2007

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for determination and correction of laser induced CCD lines degradation, comprising the steps of:
 - employing a laser to emit radiation having a finely adjustable wavelength;
 - employing a spectrometer to determine the wavelength of the emitted laser radiation;
 - projecting interference fringes produced by said spectrometer onto a CCD line formed by a plurality of camera pixels:
 - correcting ~~the~~ sensitivity of each ~~camera~~ camera pixel to compensate for damage to each camera pixel caused by said radiation by shifting the wavelength of said radiation by small, incremental steps;
 - ~~correcting said sensitivity by shifting the wavelength of said radiation by small, incremental steps;~~
 - employing a CCD camera to record each interference pattern after each wavelength shift;
 - summing all recorded interference patterns;
 - calculating an average interference pattern $R(i)$;
 - evaluating the sensitivity of each individual pixel i of the CCD camera; and;
 - increasing the sensitivity of said CCD camera by an amount that compensates for the loss of sensitivity determined by said evaluation.
2. (cancelled).
3. (cancelled).
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of correcting spatially localized damage of imaging optics projecting a pattern on the CCD lines.
5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of employing an ArF laser.
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of employing a KrF laser.
7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of employing an F₂ laser.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of evaluating said sensitivity of each individual pixel by dividing said average interference pattern $R(i)$ by a mean of said average interference pattern $R(i)$ where said mean is the sum of all average interference patterns divided by the number of pixels, said evaluation determining a percentage loss of sensitivity.

9. (canceled)